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BRITISH COLUMBIA NATIONAL PARKS CANADA



CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN SCENERY—some of the finest in the world—is national parkland in British Columbia.

Canada's National Parks are part of the Canadian heritage preserved in grand, unspoiled splashes on a vast landscape. From the sea-girt cliffs and golden beaches of the Atlantic coast into the lake-and-forest playgrounds of Central Canada, across the sweep of the prairies to the tall-country of the Rockies and Selkirks, 18 national parks provide areas of recreation in surroundings of striking natural beauty.

In addition, a system of national historic parks contains sites significant in the early history of Canada. These 23 points of interest recall, for visitors the times of early conflicts and the romantic era of North America's explorers and settlers.

The discovery of mineral hot springs bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From a small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks' system has been extended until today it embraces 52 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

Developed and administered by the Natural and Historic Resources Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the system is being progressively expanded and the parks made more accessible and enjoyable.

Expert knowledge and assistance are always close at hand. Park wardens are on continuous duty to assure the safety and convenience of visitors as well as to protect wildlife, forests and flowers.

Under the program of conservation which has keyed the development of this national heritage, the attractions of the parks will continue, undiminished, for the enjoyment of all generations.

Yoho

"How wonderful" the Indians thought and called it "Yoho", the Cree Indian word for just that. Nestling in the heart of the Rockies along the western slope of the continental divide, this park is a region of outstanding beauty.

Yoho is adjoined by two other national parks, Banff on the east and Kootenay on the south. The Kicking Horse River, from its source at the continental divide, flows across the park from east to west.

The splendour of its wild valleys, the magnificence of lofty snow-capped peaks, spectacular glaciers and waterfalls and the unbelievable colour of its alpine lakes sparkling like jewels, are proof that the Indians were not exaggerating when they named this park.



Peaceful Lake O'Hara is entered by trails leading hikers and trail riders into alpine meadows and valleys

How to Reach the Park

Yoho National Park is traversed by the western section of the Trans-Canada Highway and is linked with the other national parklands in the Canadian Rockies and Selkirk. The system of roads leading to and through this park is indicated on the accompanying map. Yoho park is also accessible by rail; the main transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through it and has a station at Field, the main town. The nearest airport is at Calgary, Alberta, 130 miles southeast.



Recreation

Climbing—The park, which is part of the "roof" of the Canadian Rockies, is a paradise for the mountaineer. The first climbing camp of the Alpine Club of Canada was held in Yoho Pass, where this organization was founded in 1906, and the rugged mountains in this area still offer an irresistible challenge to the followers of mountaineering. There are several peaks over 11,000 feet, the highest being Mount Goodsir, 11,686 feet.

Hiking—More than 250 miles of improved trails lead hikers through magnificent scenery and give photographers a chance to view close-up the wild-life and colourful flowers of this mountain region.

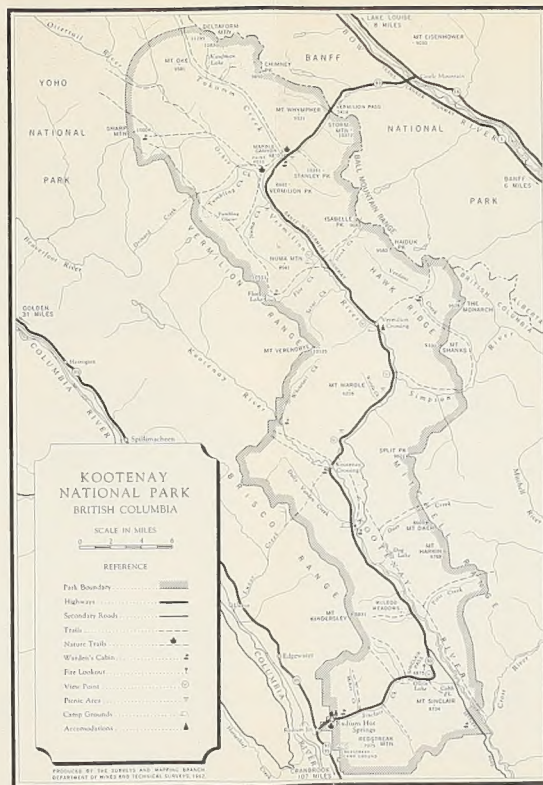
Circuit trails radiating from Emerald Lake, Takakkaw Falls, Lake O'Hara and Leachcoil lead to places of unforgettable beauty and interest. The Yoho Valley trail system includes such enchanting geological phenomena as the curtain of mist at Laughing Falls, exciting Twin Falls and the gleaming Yoho Glacier. Hoodoo Valley, near Leachcoil, is widely known for its strangely shaped pillars of glacial till cut by water and wind. Other trails lead to Wapta Falls—with its natural rock screen about 200' high; and to the famous Ice River Valley where a mass of igneous rocks, called the Ice River Complex, contains veins and irregular masses of the blue mineral sodalite.

Trail Riding—Horses can be rented at Emerald Lake, Highline Bungalows and Wapta Lodge.

Fishing—Various species including Dolly Varden, eastern brook, cutthroat, rainbow, lake trout and some hybrids are caught here. National park fishing regulations may be obtained from Kicking Horse campground, a park warden, or at an information bureau. A \$2 seasonal fishing licence is required.

Motoring—A network of roads threads through the park reaching into Yoho Valley; to Takakkaw Falls, whose waters plunge a breathtaking 1,248 feet; past the translucent green expanse of Emerald Lake and the "Natural Bridge", strange-shaped falls on the Kicking Horse River.

Camping—Four campgrounds can be reached by the motorist. The only serviced one, with space for trailers, is the Kicking Horse campground where nominal fees are charged. The use of campgrounds and trailer areas is on a first-come, first-served basis and reservations are not accepted. In most cases, camping in serviced areas is restricted to a limited period, generally two weeks.



KOOTENAY

In southeastern British Columbia, Kootenay National Park is on the western slopes of the Rockies, along the Continental Divide, 107 miles north of Cranbrook. The park extends approximately five miles on each side of the Vermilion-Sinclair section of the Banff-Windermere highway.

Traversing the park north to south for a distance of 65 miles the highway follows natural avenues formed by the valleys of the Vermilion and Kootenay rivers.

All 543 square miles of park is an area of superb mountain scenery of snow-capped peaks and glaciers; of melting waters tumbling down sheer rock faces; deep canyons and broad forested valleys; an iceberg lake and mineral hot springs.

The road leads past awesome Marble Canyon, eroded by waters of Tokumm Creek; the Ochre Beds, or "paint pots", tinting everything a rusty-red (miners once sold the ochre as a base for paint); on through Sinclair Canyon, its copper-coloured walls rising 4,875 feet; and past the exhilarating hot springs at Radium.



Indians met at Radium Hot Springs for pow-wows, now visitors gather there to swim for health and pleasure

How to Reach the Park

The Banff-Windermere Highway (No. 93), first motor road constructed across the Central Canadian Rockies, is one of the main approaches from the south leading to the mountain national parks. It joins B.C. Highway 95 at Radium Hot Springs, near the park's south entrance and the Trans-Canada Highway in Alberta, thus linking Banff, Jasper, Yoho and Kootenay national parks.

Recreation

Mineral Hot Springs—The hot springs at Radium were a favorite meeting place for generations of Indians from the prairies and British Columbia. Today a modern bathing centre has been built there.

The subterranean hot springs issuing from the rock of Redstreak Mountain have a temperature of 114°F. Odourless and tasteless, these mineralized springs with their flow of about 475,000 gallons daily supply a modern Aquacourt. Open year round, the Aquacourt provides two outdoor pools maintained at 85°F, dressing accommodation, lockers and showers, steam and massage rooms, plunge pools and a coffee bar. There is an elevator for wheelchair patients and a broad roof-terrace for sun bathers and spectators.

Fishing—The Vermilion, the Simpson (named after Sir George Simpson of Hudson's Bay Company, one of the first Europeans to travel in this region) and Kootenay rivers drain this park. These rivers, their tributaries and several lakes offer excellent angling for Dolly Varden, eastern brook, cutthroat, brown and rainbow trout. Licences and regulations can be obtained from the park information office at Radium, park wardens, or at campgrounds.

Hiking—Trails of varying length and difficulty, some marked with walking times, reveal a variety of geological features not soon forgotten. Self-guiding nature trails lead to the "paint pots" and Marble Canyon.

Camping—Free unserviced campgrounds are found conveniently along the Banff-Windermere Highway. A large serviced campground and trailer area is newly developed on a bench of Red Streak Mountain, near Radium Junction.

Climbing—See regulations under "General Information".



Piercing the heart of the Selkirks with the Trans-Canada Highway took great engineering skill. This memorial at Rogers Pass commemorates completion of the road.

GLACIER

Glacier National Park, an area of 521 square miles, lies in the heart of the Selkirk Mountains, west of the Canadian Rockies, within the great northern bend of the Columbia River. The park was established in 1886—one of the first areas in Canada to be set apart as a public possession.

Of all Canada's lofty mountain ranges, none possesses greater physical attractions than the Selkirks. Ages older than the Rockies, these peaks have a character so distinct as to be recognized at once. Many of the highest mountains in the Selkirk range are included in the park area, some rising to heights of more than 11,000 feet. These snow-capped pinnacles, flanked by immense ice-fields and sparkling glaciers, stand sentinel over a kingdom of canyons and caverns, turbulent rivers and waterfalls, brilliant against a background of forest-clad slopes. For lovers of primitive nature, this vast alpine expanse, with its flower-filled meadows and valleys, has an unusual charm, compounded of both beauty and challenge.

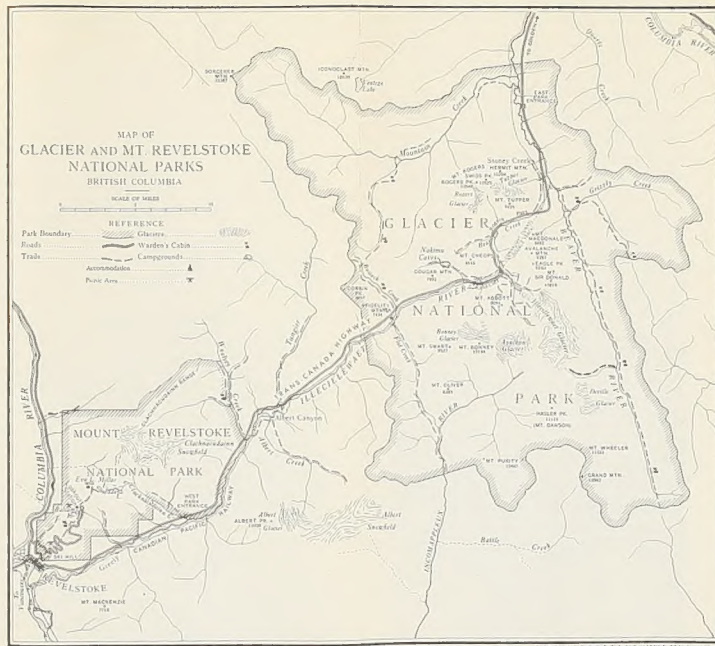
One of the outstanding attractions of the park is the Illecillewaet glacier, less than 4 miles from Glacier station. The snow-field is reached by a good trail involving very little climbing. This gigantic mass of ice falls more than 3,500 feet from the névé* and is almost 10 square miles in area. Seen from the trail, it gleams through the green forest. Although actually 5 miles distant, the ice mass appears close at hand. In spite of the enormous snowfall for which the district is noted, this glacier, in common with other glaciers in the Canadian Rockies and Selkirks, is gradually retreating.

How to Reach the Park

The Trans-Canada Highway crosses Glacier National Park and joins B.C. Highway 95 at Golden 30 miles to the east. Bus lines and the Canadian Pacific Railway service the park, the main station being Glacier.

Winter maintenance and a complex system for diverting avalanches, is carried out by the Natural and Historic Resources Branch, keeping the Highway open all year round.

*An expanse of granular snow not yet compressed into ice at the head of glacier.



PREPARED BY THE SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH OTTAWA

Recreation

Hiking—A network of good trails radiates from Illecillewaet highway to places of outstanding beauty and interest to the nature lover. One popular trail goes to the ridge on Mount Abbott affording striking views of the Asulkan and Illecillewaet glaciers and such peaks as Cheops, Grizzly, Sifton, Hermit, Shaughnessy, Grant, Macdonald, Avalanche and famous Mount Sir Donald. This trail passes through magnificent stands of cedar, hemlock and alpine fir trees. The upland meadows are covered with alpine flowers of many varieties. Another broad trail leads to the Cougar valley past Nakimu caves with views of mountain cataracts and rock formations. This alpine meadowland is a study in plants and flowers indigenous to the mountains. Other trails lead to the magnificent glaciers, past rugged peaks and through wilderness areas of superb beauty and attraction. The Nakimu caves are closed to the public until suitable access is provided. Most trails in the area are not long and can be walked easily in one day from the campground.

Periodically, the Alpine Club of Canada holds both summer and winter camps in the park. The club has a permanent hut near Glacier station and another on Hermit Mountain.

Skiing—Superb high-country facilities are available in Glacier National Park, particularly in the Asulkan valley, 5 miles from Glacier station. Ten square miles of glacier and névé provide a wide variety of skiing conditions, including 4,000-foot vertical drops and downhill runs up to four miles.

Fishing—Largely confined to fast-flowing streams, fishing in the park is best in autumn when there is least silt. The number of species is not large but Dolly Varden and Rocky Mountain whitefish are present in most streams.

Camping—There is limited campground space in the park but at Rogers Pass there is a 60-room motor hotel with dining facilities, service station, general store and post office. The campgrounds are open from July to early September and the commercial services are available all year.

MOUNT REVELSTOKE

Mount Revelstoke National Park is situated in the angle formed by the Illecillewaet and Columbia rivers and includes rolling alpine landscapes at altitudes of over 6,000 feet. The park lies on the western slope of the Selkirk Mountains between the valleys of the Columbia River on the east and the Illecillewaet River on the south and stretches across to the Clachnacudainn range. The views from the Lookout at The Summit are breathtaking, with three mountain ranges visible—Monashee, Selkirk and Purcell. To the west is Eagle Pass through which run the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Across the picturesque Columbia valley rises the Monashee range, dominated by triple-peaked Mount Begbie, and to the north of the Lookout. Nearer at hand, the Clachnacudainn snowfield peaks which are visible from this vantage point include Begbie, MacPherson, Mackenzie, Tilley, Ghost Rock, Harry and Twin Buttes. A "view identifier", with arrows pointing to the various peaks and glaciers in the vicinity has been erected at the Lookout. Far below, the city of Revelstoke spreads out like a giant fan at the junction of Columbia and Illecillewaet rivers.

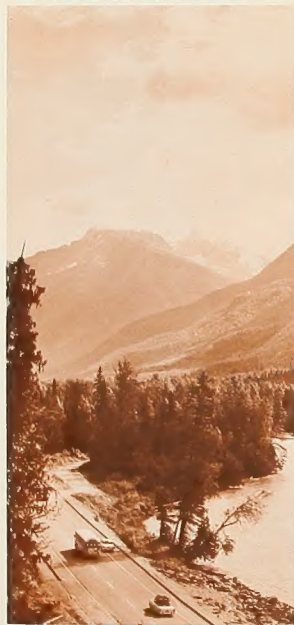
How to Reach the Park

Mount Revelstoke National Park is accessible from the city of Revelstoke, which is served both by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Trans-Canada Highway. The 18-mile road leading to The Summit on Mount Revelstoke from the Trans-Canada Highway is closed to the public this season to allow the road to be reconstructed and paved. During this time, The Summit is not accessible by car to the public, although trails permit hiking into that area. There are no campgrounds or any commercial accommodation open to the public at present at Mount Revelstoke National Park.

Revelstoke is on the main trans-continental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway with a daily service east and west. It is also situated on the Trans-Canada Highway. An approach from the south by highway may also be made on Highway 6 via Nelson, Nakusp and the Arrowhead ferry.

Revelstoke forms the western terminus of the "Big Bend" Highway which was opened for travel in 1940. This stretch, between Revelstoke and Golden, follows the Columbia River around its great northern bend, a breath-taking drive of 193 miles through an almost primeval mountain region.

Along the southern edge of Mt. Revelstoke park the Trans-Canada Highway follows the Illecillewaet River



Recreation

Hiking—There are more than 14 miles of trails in the park. The most popular is the trail leading from the Lookout at The Summit to Millar, Eva and Jade Lakes.

Skiing—Revelstoke is known as the pioneer championship ski-jumping centre of Canada, and many of the early records—both amateur and professional—were made on the southern slopes of Mount Revelstoke. Recently the hill has been redesigned and the new ski jump has been approved by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association as an 80-metre hill. Additional development of the ski slopes has widened the practice areas so that novices may also enjoy ample opportunity to perfect their techniques. The downhill course, one of the most thrilling on the North American continent, has been laid out on the southern slopes of the mountain with a length of 1¼ miles and a vertical drop of 2,500 feet.

FORT RODD HILL

Located at the end of Belmont Road, which joins Highway 1A, five miles west of Victoria, B.C., Fort Rodd Hill is the last remaining large fort on the Pacific coast of Canada. It was completed in 1898 and mounted three 6-inch guns on disappearing carriages and two 12-pounder quick-firing guns. During World War II, the fort was used to defend Esquimalt harbour against attack by motor torpedo boats. Near the fort is the Figgard lighthouse, which was the first lighthouse on the British Columbia coast and has been in continuous operation since 1860. It is preserved with the fort as a national historic park.

FORT LANGLEY

Fort Langley commemorates the remaining original building and other reconstructed buildings and stockade of the principal Hudson's Bay Company post on the Fraser River. Originally built in 1827, rebuilt in 1840 after burning, the post was an important agricultural and fishery establishment. In 1858 British Columbia was proclaimed a crown colony at a ceremony in the fort, which for a short time was the provisional capital.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration and Motor Vehicle Licences

Motorists entering Yoho, Kootenay, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Parks must register and obtain park motor licences as required by regulations governing the use of national park highways.

A licence is good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31, which will be honoured in all national parks in Canada. Automobile \$2; auto with trailer attached \$3.*

Single trip fee during the period November 1 to March 31 inclusive: Automobile, 50 cents; auto with trailer attached \$1.

Parks Administration

Yoho, Kootenay, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Parks are administered by the Natural and Historic Resources Branch. The superintendent of Yoho Park is located at Field, B.C., and the superintendent of Glacier and Mount Revelstoke parks at Revelstoke, B.C. The superintendent of Kootenay park is stationed at Radium Hot Springs, B.C.

The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Accommodation

Copies of publications containing details of the name, location, capacity, rates and plan for all tourist accommodation in Canada's national parks may be obtained from park information bureaus or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Due to the popularity of the national parks it is advisable to make reservations well in advance.

Camping

Many visitors to Canada's national parks bring along their own camping equipment or arrive in trailers. For their convenience, campgrounds have been prepared and equipped in some of the most beautiful locations in the parks.

*All fees are subject to change.

Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and used, so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Consequently, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected and hunting and the possession of unsealed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are also wildlife sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds and their nests, pick wild flowers, cut down or damage trees or remove any geological specimens. Dogs and cats may accompany visitors into the park. For protection of park animals, however, dogs must be kept on a leash.

Fauna and Flora

The national parks in British Columbia contain very interesting wild animal and bird life. The most prominent species of large mammals in Yoho and Kootenay parks are moose, elk, mule and white-tailed deer, black and grizzly bear, Rocky-Mountain goat and cougar. Several smaller species including lynx, marten, weasel and beaver are also found. Rocky-Mountain sheep are also prevalent in Kootenay park. Most of these species, except sheep, are also found in Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Parks. Bird life in the parks includes grouse, ptarmigan and various species of insectivorous birds, many with bright plumage.

The forests of the parks include most of the species native to the Canadian Rockies and Selkirks. The predominant species in Yoho and Kootenay parks are lodgepole pine, spruce and poplar. Balsam and Douglas fir are also found. Glacier and Mount Revelstoke parks contain spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas fir and poplar.

The vegetation in Glacier park, in particular, is luxuriant where cedar, hemlock, spruce and Douglas fir are most prominent.

The wildflowers of the park are a delight to the visitor. Their colour, fragrance and delicate loveliness add a touch of enchantment to the region. Growing in profusion in the valleys and on the slopes of the mountains, these alpine gardens of nature are found even above the tree line at the edge of the glaciers.

Mountain Climbing—The national parks regulations require that all mountain travel off the park trails must be registered with the nearest park warden or other park officer before and after the climb. Persons camping out overnight are subject to the same regulations. Inexperienced climbers should obtain the services of a guide and full information concerning the necessary equipment. Visitors unaccustomed to mountain terrain should exercise great caution when climbing or hiking in unfamiliar country.

Films

Films of Canada's national parks, 16 mm., in colour, with sound, are available from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

680 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.—10019
230 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.—60601
233 Sansome Street, San Francisco, California—94104
1 Grosvenor Square, London, W.1., England

Showings of nature films are made at various centres in the parks during the summer season.

For further information write to:

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